

SECRET

25X1

OXC-0055-67
Copy 1 of 7

21 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Program Phase-Out Conference at SR-71/F-12
SPO (15 February 1967)

1. [] (SR-71/F-12 SPO, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio) requested this particular conference and also acted as "host" for the occasion.

2. [] (NRO), Col. Robert Welch and Lt. Col. Robert Honeywell (both AFRDR) met earlier with [] on 14 February to establish preliminary understandings on topics to be discussed; obtain mutual recognition of SCOPE COTTON lines of command and responsibilities; and to set the tenor for the following day's conference.

3. [] (both OSA) had an informal meeting on the evening of 14 February with [], Welch and Honeywell. Review was made of the SPO's agenda for the 15 February conference. These individuals shared strong reservations over many of the assumptions made by the SPO in his agenda presentation. It was agreed that [] would establish a number of ground rules at the inception of the conference and prior to any discussions on the agenda items.

4. At 0800 hours, 15 February, a limited-participant SCOPE COTTON briefing was given [] using miniature versions of the OSA briefing charts. It was obvious that this briefing answered many of the questions that had been in [] mind. He interposed no arguments or disagreements with this particular presentation. [] (OSA) presented additional comments regarding OSA planning on the overall SCOPE COTTON task.

SECRET

NRO and USAF review(s) completed.

SECRET

OXC-0055-67

Page 2

25X1

5. The 15 February conference was convened formally at 0900 hours in the SPO's conference room. In addition to personnel noted in the preceding paragraphs, representatives from SAC and JRC (Col. Felices) were present.

6. The following is the chronological sequence in which topics were discussed during the conference. Verbatim comments are entered, as are resume type notes or observations:

25X1

a. [] "The key, priority question facing this conference is determining when SAC can be Ops Ready to pick up the mission." (This was later followed by comments that SAC start picking operational responsibilities on 1 July 1967 and that SAC now has an "IOC" - Initial Operational Capability.)

25X1

b. [] "Two topics bear discussing immediately; these are: (1) OXCART assets that are declared available during the phase-down and (2) The contracting aspects attendant to the phase-down."

c. At this time, [] requested time to present background matters and to establish the lines of command and responsibility. He then explained that he and [] bore responsibility for conduct of the OXCART phase-down to their respective Headquarters'. [] read off several high-level memoranda attendant to SCOPE COTTON and noted the various assumptions that had been made, as well as those questions which had not as yet been answered at DOD level.

25X

25X

25X

25X1

d. [] then reiterated that the first order of business would be the SAC assumption of BLACK SHIELD and SKYLARK responsibilities and determining what OXCART resources were needed to assist SAC in attaining that posture. Col. Lewis (Hq SAC) stated he was of the opinion that SAC would

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

OX-0055-67
Page 3

25X

have first access to all [] assets. He was quickly advised that determination of where assets are to go will be made at higher levels and, if necessary, at the NRO level.

25X

e. It was agreed that certain actions could be taken at this meeting as concerned OXCART assets:

25X1

(1) SAC will determine its assets requirements. [] stated this had already been done and costed.)

(2) A review should be made of possible assets available from the OXCART phase-out; with due consideration to Kadena assets. It was reiterated that although assets may potentially be identified as available, no actual physical transfers will occur until directed by higher Headquarters. A team of individuals was selected to act as the focal points on the assets review:

SPO - []

25X1

[]

25X1

SAC - Lt. Col. Ricker

[]

25X1

f. It was at this point that a comment was made that SAC possessed an "Initial Operational Capability" (IOC) with a 15 aircraft (SR-71) squadron and was "now ready to go". This statement was later amended with certain qualifications concerning the SR-71 technical objective camera. [] capabilities [] (OSA participants in the conference did not offer any comments on this subject.)

25X1

25X

25X1

g. [] stated he would aim for 15 April as a target date for actions noted in paragraph 6e (1) and (2) (i.e., determination and review of assets).

SECRET

25X

SECRET

OXC=0055-67

Page 4

25X

h. The following agenda items reflect final agreed-upon positions as a result of reviewing the SPO's assumptions and the insertion of comments by NRO, AFRDR and OSA conferees:

(1)

[redacted] (It was noted here that determination of A-12 assets to be used in the SR-71 program was a separate agenda subject.) The SPO recommendation (and position) is that A-12's be stored as a package weapon system with all sensors, systems, etc. SPO would assume responsibilities for storage and upkeep in event the A-12's are to be used by SAC in the future (1968 through 1972 time span).

25X
NRO

(2) The SPO, in conjunction with [redacted]

[redacted]
Target Date: 1 April 1967. (It was mentioned by OSA personnel that an overall phase-down plan will be released by that date and it will contain logistics, etc., annexes).

25X
NRO

(3) That the SPO Programs have initial right to all assets declared excess in the OXCART program except those items specifically designated by higher Headquarters for other programs.

(4) That the transfer of all major end items, equipments and spares will be released to the SPO through [redacted] as they are declared surplus to the OXCART program. (Note: This insures movement of assets is always through the [redacted])

25X
NRO

(5) That the losing unit will maintain sufficient staff to properly identify, pack and ship the assets within the approved planning dates. (Note: OSA planning included this requirement.)

(6) That items on order or in repair will not be cancelled without prior coordination with the SPO. SPO shall have the right to assume contract costs where deemed appropriate and within its authorized funding. (Note: SPO stated he also wants to take advantage of current OXCART R&D efforts that may be of benefit to the SR-71/F-12 programs.)

25X1 NRO

25X1 NRO

25X1

SECRET

OXC-0055-67

Page 5

25X1

(7) That the resources required to accomplish the tasks involved, related to and/or as a result of the "phase-down" will be provided outside and in addition to those required for the operation and support of the basic SR-71 program. (Note: This is of concern only to the SPO and is a catch-all "saving clause" for his activity.)

i. The following are SPO comments relative to a list of tasks and assumptions given to him earlier by AFRDR (and initially, NRO) message:

(1) No disagreement with the OXCART flying hour program (CY-67), grounding dates of aircraft, release of personnel, etc. Does, however, request coordination with his office to insure maximum transfer response and equipment utilization.

(2) SPO does not concur with storage of aircraft at Tucson and recommends that storage be at Palmdale. He noted that shelter is available and that qualified personnel will be available for maintenance from the IRAN program. Security would be better. Acquisition of spares would be easier, aircraft would be centrally located and at an IRAN facility capable of returning them to flying status in the shortest possible time. (Note: The SPO proposal in this regard was quite lengthy and stressed the logic attendant to storage at Palmdale.)

(3) (Note: Short discussion held on phase-down of tanker, chase and administrative aircraft. It was agreed that these requirements will be determined and controlled by OSA).

(4) The Kadena Deployment from OXCART will continue until commitment is relieved or the responsibility is transferred to the SR-71 program. (Note: This is an obvious contingency.)

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

OXC-0055-67

Page 6

25X

(5) Contracting responsibility for the SR-71, J-58 engine product improvement and YF-12 will be transferred to DOD, consistent with security classifications. (Note: No further comments offered on this subject.)

(6) (Note: Discussion was held on engines and spares. SPO would like to take advantage of all the engines and spares made available from OXCART. Implications were shown him on the requirement for USAF-type tech data, as well as OXCART intents to phase-out the overhaul facility. This subject will require further discussions.)

(7) [] [] was asked to monitor any "shopping lists" or reports of assets that affect disposition of OXCART vehicle "peculiar" and "common" spares and equipment. This also includes identifying and determining the cost of additional AGE and spares required over and above the present SR-71 and recoupable OXCART assets that will be required to support SKYLARK and BLACK SHIELD.

25X

NRO

(8) SPO will assess the impact of the J-58 product improvement program as a result of the A-12 phase-out and present information to AFRDR.

(9) [] will assess impact that mothballing of A-12 fleet would have on number of personnel required []

25X

NRO

(10) The SPO is working on a study to determine what impact the shutdown of the A-12 fleet will have on P&W with respect to overhaul and repair, spares production and component improvement.

(11) AFRDR will query SAC on whether the number of tankers now scheduled for modification should be reduced.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

OXC-0055-67

Page 7

25X

(12) SPO is currently engaged in a study of considerable magnitude at Eglin. From this it will be able to determine whether it will have future requirements for [redacted] facilities.

25X

(13) SPO is currently engaged in developing a plan whereby the contract management responsibility for SR-71 O & M support would be transferred to the Air Force and managed by AFSC. Additional areas of contracting responsibility remain to be worked out by SPO and AFRDR.

(14) (Note: Discussions held on whether AFSC or AFLC should take over contract management of the SR-71 O & M support. SPO continued to recommend AFSC.)

(15) In determining whether the "Skunk Works" will continue to exist essentially in its present organizational form or whether Air Force will have to develop new working relationships with Lockheed, the SPO stated security procedures would be his biggest problem area, i.e., transitioning from [redacted] procedures to those contained in Air Force Manual 205-1.

25X1

7. The following are two key points that bear mentioning here:

a. Col. Felices stated during the meeting that the JRC intends to determine the Agency OXCART operational phase-out dates by 15 March 1967. This was interpreted to mean that by that date, it will have been determined whether and when SAC would assume the SKYLARK and BLACK SHIELD operational roles.

25X1

b. [redacted] emphasized that the Agency security system attendant to research and development projects must continue to be upheld at all times. In other words, the Agency secure techniques, methods and contacts must not be jeopardized at any period of the phase-down or transition of OXCART activities.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

OXC-0055-67
Page 8

25X1

c. It was brought to the attention of conferees that the Agency Communications Facilities [redacted] would undoubtedly be closed down in conjunction with SCOPE COTTON. It would thus behoove SAC to start planning now for Air Force communications support during its SR-71 deployments.

25X1

25X1

Chief, Maintenance Division, OSA

CONCUR:

25X1

MD/M/OSA [redacted] (21 Feb 67)

Distribution:

- #1 - D/M/OSA
- #2 - D/SA
- #3 - D/O/OSA
- #4 - D/R&D/OSA
- #5 - B&PD/COMPT/OSA
- #6 - D/M/OSA (Chrono)
- #7 - RB/OSA

SECRET

25X1